

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02410 231121Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 /022 W
-----032195 240316Z /65

R 231043Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0766
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2410

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, BEXP, KU
SUBJ: VISIT OF MPEAA OFFICIALS TO KUWAIT

REF: (A) KUWAIT 2152, (B) STATE 84791

1. MOTION PICTURE EXPORT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MPEAA) OFFICIALS MARC SPIEGEL, KAMAL KAWAR AND PAUL PEGUGNOT WERE PLEASED AND SURPRISED BY THEIR APRIL 18-19 VISIT TO KUWAIT, MAKING MORE PROGRESS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CURB ONGOING PROBLEM OF VTR PIRACY OF U.S. FILMS THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED.

2. SPIEGEL AND KAWAR TOLD EMBOFFS SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE THAT KUWAIT NATIONAL CINEMA SUPPLIED THEM WITH NAMES AND BACKGROUND ON FOUR LOCAL VIDEOTAPE COMPANIES INVOLVED IN PIRACY OF U.S. COPYRIGHTED FILMS AND REFERRED THEM TO LOCAL LAW FIRM (RADWAN AND SIFRI). LAW FIRM SAID IT HAD WON SUITS INVOLVING ILLEGAL USE OF COPYRIGHTED SONGS AND EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT SIMILAR SUITS INVOLVING PIRATED FILMS COULD BE WON. MPEAA LAWYER WILL BE FOLLOWING UP WITH RADWAN AND SIFRI ON THIS. ALSO, MPEAA OFFICIALS WERE TOLD THAT APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF FILMS THROUGH LOCAL TRADEMARK PROTECTION PROCEDURES OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE MIGHT WORK, AND THEY WILL
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EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY FURTHER.

3. MPEAA OFFICIALS APPRECIATED AMBASSADOR'S RAISING THEIR CONCERNS APRIL 18 WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/MINISTER OF INFORMATION SHAIKH JABER AL ALI AND ALSO WITH MIN. INFO UNDERSECRETARY SAADOUN JASSIM TO WHOM JABER AL ALI REFERRED HIM. AMBASSADOR TOLD JASSIM THAT, DEPENDING ON RESULTS OF

THIS MPEAA VISIT TO KUWAIT, EMBASSY MAY HAVE TO SEND DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTING THIS "PIRACY" BY KUWAITI FIRMS. JASSIM NOTED THAT THIS MATTER WOULD COME WITHIN COMMERCE MINISTRY'S PURVIEW, BUT OFFERED, IF NOTE SENT, TO ENDORSE ACTION BY COMMERCE TO RESTRAIN THIS ACTIVITY. HE INDICATED, PARENTHETICALLY, THAT THERE WAS LITTLE GOK INTEREST IN ADHERING TO THE UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION SINCE KUWAIT HAD LITTLE TO GAIN FROM SUCH ACTION.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF ABOVE MENTIONED POSSIBILITIES TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM NOW BEING EXPLORED BY MPEAA, EMBASSY PREFERS AT THIS TIME TO RESERVE OPTION OF SENDING A NOTE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY OF REPORT MPEAA PREPARING ON FILM PIRACY PROBLEM AFTER MPEAA PROVIDES IT TO DEPARTMENT.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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